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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fifty-first session
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THEMATIC ISSUES RELATING TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Note by the secretariat

1. In its resolution 1998/5 of 20 August 1998, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities decided to appoint Mr. Marc Bossuyt as Special Rapporteur with the task of preparing a study on the concept and practice of affirmative action, and requested him to submit a preliminary report to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session. The Commission on Human Rights, in its decision 1999/107 of 27 April 1999, endorsed the decision of the Sub-Commission.

2. In its resolution, the Sub-Commission agreed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should be requested to send out a questionnaire to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, inviting them to send all relevant national documentation on the subject of affirmative action.

3. In view of the fact that the collection of the information referred to above was not possible in the time available for the preparation of documents for the fifty-first session, and as suggested by the Special Rapporteur, the report on the concept and practice of affirmative action will be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-second session.

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